

SANCTIFICATION

BY

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Sanctification

T. L. ADAMS

1. *Synonymous Terms.*

"Holiness," "heart purity," "perfection," "perfect love," "the fullness of the Spirit," "sanctification," "Sanctified wholly," are different expressions used in the Bible to call our attention to that great experience or state to be received and enjoyed by all God's children subsequent to regeneration.

2. *Definition.*

What is the meaning of Sanctification? Mr. Webster defines it:

(1) To make holy, (2) to set apart, (3) that act of God's grace by which the affections of men are purified or alienated from sin and the world and exalted to a supreme love to God. To sanctify—to make holy, or free from sin—to cleanse from moral corruption—to make fit for the service of God and the society of heaven." O how it rejoices the heart of a true child of God whose chief desire is to "Glorify God (1 Cor. 6:20.) be conformed to the image of His Son (Rom. 8:29)) here, and enjoy the society of a holy heaven hereafter." When reading in God's written Word he learns:

C I.—GOD WILLS OUR SANCTIFICATION.

“For this is the will of God even your sanctification.” (1 Thess. 4:3.) Again: “By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.” (Heb. 10:10.) And Jesus teaches us to pray for this: “After this manner therefore pray ye, Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name thy kingdom come, *thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven*”. (Mt. 6:9, 10.) And his *will* is our sanctification. Then hear his warning: “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but *he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven*”. (Matt. 7:21.) To be in perfect harmony with God’s will is heaven on earth.—To be in rebellion against it would produce pandemonium in heaven. This is what drove Adam and Eve from Eden into a sin cursed earth, turned Satan, an angel of light, into a devil (Isa. 14:12-14.) and digged and peopled the bottomless pit of hell. (Matt. 25:41.) But bless God—

“He wills that I should holy be,
That holiness I long to feel,
That full divine conformity
To all my Saviour’s righteous will,”

—C. Wesley.

(II.—CHRIST PRAYED FOR OUR SANCTIFICATION.

In the 17th chapter of John, Christ prayed for his disciples whom he reminds the Father, “were not of the world even as he is not of the world” v. 14. “In whom

he was glorified" v. 10. They had received him and "Were born* * * of God" (Jno. 1:12,13.) and "had been given him out of the world"(v. 6.) And yet he prays the Father to "*Sanctify them*" (v. 17.) "That they might be *truly sanctified*" (v. 19. Marginal reading) And bless God he does not stop with them but continues (v. 20.) "Neither pray I for these alone but for them also which shall believe on me through this word.") So Christ prays for every believer who has since believed on him through the testimony and gospels recorded by the holy apostles, and that includes every true believer from that day to the end of the world.

And,

"The Father hears him pray,
His dear anointed One;
He cannot turn away
The presence of His Son."

(III.—JESUS SHED HIS BLOOD FOR OUR SANCTIFICATION.

"Wherefore Jesus also that He might sanctify the people with His own blood suffered without the gate." (Heb. 13:12.) Zechariah prophesied saying: "There shall be a fountain opened * * for sin and for uncleanness." (Zec. 13:1.) Having therefore brethren boldness to enter into holiest by the blood of Jesus which he hath consecrated for us through the veil that is to say his flesh" (Heb. 10:19, 20.)

Who gave Himself for us that He might redeem us

from all iniquity and purify unto Himself a peculiar people zealous of good works," (Tit. 2:14.) "He hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be the righteousness of God in him." (1 Cor. 5:21.)

Again: "Christ also loved the Church and gave Himself for it, that He might sanctify it having cleansed it by the washing of water (Tit. 3:5.) with the word. (1 Pet. 1:23.) that he might present it to Himself a glorious church not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing but that it should be holy and without blemish." (R. V. Eph. 5:25-27). A work of grace in the Christian must be very necessary that would cause the Son of God to pour out His heart's blood to make it possible, and surely had there been any other way Jesus would not have paid so dear a price for our sanctification. But the price is paid, O let's claim our inheritance! (Acts 26:18.)

IV.—THE NECESSITY FOR SANCTIFICATION.

Paul wrote: (1 Cor. 3:1-3.) "And I brethren could not speak unto you as unto Spiritual but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it neither yet are ye able, for ye are yet carnal."

Notice, these were (1) "Brethren," (2) "Babes in Christ."—been "born of the Spirit" (Jno. 3:5.) (3) Living "babes"—he fed them with "milk,"—but they were "not able to bear meat," for "strong meat belongs to

them that are perfect." (Heb. 5:14. Marginal) But they were "carnal" and in Rom. 8:7, we learn "The carnal mind is enmity against God for it is not subject to God neither indeed can be," but must be through the Spirit mortified (Rom. 8:13.) which is accomplished in "Spiritual circumcision" Col. 2:11, by the Baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire." (Matt. 3:11, 12.) The apostles, whose names were written in heaven," (Luke 10:20.) had "left all to follow Jesus." (Mark 10:28.) been "Ordained" (Mark 3:14, 15.) Called, commissioned and sent into all the world to preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15.) and yet they were "Ambitious," (Mk. 10:37.); "Envious," (Mk. 10:41.); "Vindictive," (Lk. 9:54, 55.); "Cowardly," (Matt. 26:56). "Prone to wander," (Matt. 26:62-74.); "Covetous," (Matt. 26:14-16.); and "boastful," (Matt. 26:35.) Jesus saw their condition and "Commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, * * * for John truly baptized with water but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence." (Acts 1:4,5,) which came on them on the day of pentecost, Acts 2:1-4, and "*purified their hearts.*" (Acts 15:8, 9.)

Again, Paul said: "I delight in the law of God after the inward man; but I see another law in my members warring against the law of my mind and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from

the body of this death?" (Rom. 7:22-24.) Here is a soul struggling with the "body of death," which in V.17, he calls "Sin that dwelleth in me," and in Heb. 12:1, it's called "The sin that doth so easily beset us."

We learn, (1) This sin *dwells in Christians*, (2) It easily besets them. (3) It is a body of death. Charles Wesley wrote: "Fear and sin and grief expire, Cast out by perfect love." Paul wrote, in order to get rid of this easily besetting sin, "*Look unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith.*" (Heb. 12:2).

This body of sin can be destroyed by the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire. Know ye not that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death. * * * Knowing this that our old man is crucified with him that the body of sin might be destroyed." (Rom. 6:3-6.)

1. *Sanctification Necessary for the Gentiles.*

"That the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable being sanctified by the Holy Ghost" (Rom. 15:16.) "Delivering thee from the people and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me." (Acts 26:17, 18.) "And God which knoweth the hearts bear them (the Gentiles) witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; and put no difference between us and them purifying

their hearts by faith." (Acts 15:8, 9.) "After this I beheld and lo a great multitude which no man could number of all nations and kindreds and peoples and tongues stood before the throne and before the Lamb clothed with white robes and palms in their hands. * * * These came out of great tribulation and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. *Therefore are they before the throne of God.*" (Rev. 7:9, 14, 15.)

2. *Sanctification A Universal Necessity.*

"Follow peace with all men and *the sanctification without which no man shall see the Lord.*" (Heb. 12:14. R. V.) "Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands and a pure heart." (Psa. 24:34.)

V.—SANCTIFICATION GOD'S ORIGINAL DESIGN.

"We are bound to give thanks alway to God for you brethren beloved of the Lord because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth." 2 Thess. 2:13.

"Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father through sanctification of the Spirit unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ. Grace unto you and peace be multiplied."—1 Pet. 1:2. "According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love." (Eph. 1:4.) "Who hath saved us" (from our sins) "and called us with an holy calling," (2 Tim.

1:9.) "For God hath not called us unto uncleanness but unto holiness." (1 Thess. 4:7.)

"For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son."—Rom. 8:29.)

VI.—BENEFITS OF SANCTIFICATION.

1. *Purifies the Heart.*

"God which knoweth the hearts, bear them witness giving them the Holy Ghost even as He did unto us; and put no difference between us and them purifying their hearts by faith." (Acts 15:8, 9.) Benefit of: "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God." Matt. 5:8.

2. *Puts us in a Clean Way.*

"An highway shall be there and a way, and it shall be called the way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it." (Isa. 35:8.) "Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in His holy place? he that hath clean hands and a pure heart." Psa. 24:34. "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." 2 Cor. 7:1. From all your filthiness and from all your idols will I cleanse you." (Ezek. 36:25.)

3. *Crucifies us to the World.*

"God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me and I unto the world." (Gal. 6:14.)—Corpses don't court each other, and the truly sanctified "Love

not the world" (Jno. 2:25.) "Knowing that, whosoever therefore would be the friend of the world is the enemy of God." (Jas. 4:4.) Paul said: "I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live; yet not I but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me. I do not frustrate the grace of God." (Gal 2:20, 21.)

4. *It "Purges us as Gold and Silver" is Purged.*

The Psalmist prayed: "Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean." (Psa. 51:7.) John said of Jesus: "He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire * * * and will *thoroughly* purge his floor." (Matt. 3:11, 12.) Jesus said: "Every branch in me that beareth fruit he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit." (Jno. 15:2.) He is like a refiner's fire * * * and he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he shall purify * * * and purge them as gold and silver that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness." (Mal. 3:2, 3.)

5. *Enables us to keep the First Commandment.*

"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength, this is the first commandment." (Mk. 12:30.) But is this possible? Yes: "The Lord thy God will circumcise thine heart and the heart of thy seed to love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live." (Deut. 30:6.) Natural

birth precedes physical circumcision, so we are first born into the kingdom (Jno. 3:3.) Then receive that "Circumcision of the heart, in the spirit not in the letter; whose praise is not of men but of God."—(Rom. 2:29,) filling us with perfect love." (Jno. 4:17.)

6. *To the Sanctified, the Bible is THE Book.*

"His delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law doth he meditate day and night. (Ps. 1:2.) Unless thy Law had been my delight I should then have perished in mine affliction." (Psa. 119:92.) Thy testimonies also are my delight and my counselors." (Psa. 119:24.) "Great peace have they which love thy law and nothing shall offend them." (Psa. 119:165.)

7. *Makes of One with the Sanctifier.*

"For both He that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one for which cause He is not ashamed to call them brethren." (Heb. 2:11.) So God is not ashamed of the sanctified. Hallelujah! The Psalmist said: "I shall be satisfied when I awake with thy likeness, (Psa. 17:15.) which (Eph. 4:24.) after God is righteousness and true holiness." "Herein is our love made perfect that we may have boldness in the day of judgment because *as He is so are we in this world.*" (1 Jno. 4:17.) And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself even as He is pure. (1 John 3:3. See also Mark 3:34, 35.)

8. *Sanctification Makes us Meet for the Master's Use.*

“He shall be a vessel unto honour sanctified and meet for the Master’s use, and prepared unto every good work.” 2 Tim. 2:21. “That the man of God may be perfect thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” V.17. Def. “To make fit for the service of God and the society of heaven.” (Webster).

9. *Gives Boldness in Service of God.*

Before the Sanctifying baptism of the Holy Ghost received at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4.) we hear the Apostles (Matt. 26:35.) All assuring Jesus they would *die with Him* before they would deny Him and yet only a few hours afterward (V. 56,) we read: “Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled.” Peter afterwards follows afar off and denies Him with an oath” (V. 72.) But after Pentecost, “They saw the Boldness of Peter and John.” (Acts 4:13.) Peter looked the Jews in the eyes, and declared: “Ye denied the Holy One and desired a murderer * * * and killed the Prince of life.” Yea they all boldly stood up for the faith at their life’s peril. (See of Stephen, Acts 8:54-60.)

10. *Brings Fullness of Joy.*

After Jesus had told his disciples how the Father would send the Holy Ghost (Jno. 14:26) and purge or purify (ch. 15:2) their hearts Acts 15:8, 9.) he said: “These things have I spoken unto you that my joy might remain in you and your joy might be full.” (V. 11) Again: “Ask and ye shall receive that your joy may be full.” (John 16:24.) (see also Isa. 35:8-10.)

11. *God Specially Cares for the Perfect.*

“He knows and loves and cares,
Nothing this truth can dim;
He gives the very best to those
Who leave the choice to Him.”

God said of Job, “Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, and that feareth God and escheweth evil?” (Job 1:8. “Hast thou not made an hedge about him and about his house and about all that he hath on every side?” (V. 10.) “For the eyes of the Lord run to and from throughout the whole earth to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.” (2 Chron. 16:9.)

12. *Robes us in Readiness for the Marriage of the Lamb.*

“Let us be glad and rejoice and give honor to him for the marriage of the Lamb is come and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen clean and white for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. * * * Blessed are they which are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” (Rev. 19:7-9.) “And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly, and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Thess. 5:23.)

Jude wrote to the “sanctified and preserved in Je-

sus Christ" (Jude 1). "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy. To the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power both now and ever. Amen." (Jude 24:25.)

VII.—SANCTIFICATION PROMISED.

"Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean; from all your filthiness, and from all your idols will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put without you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and will give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you and cause you to walk in my statutes and ye shall keep my judgments and do them." (Ezek. 36: 25-27.) "I will also save you from all your uncleannesses" (Verse 27)—Tobacco and all. "If we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanses us from all sin. If we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:7, 9.)

Adam Clarke notes here: "Sin exists in the soul after two modes or forms: 1st, In guilt which requires forgiveness or pardon; 2d, In pollution which requires cleansing. Guilt, to be forgiven, must be confessed, and pollution, to be cleansed, must also be confessed. In order to find mercy a man must know and feel himself to

be a sinner, that he may fervently apply to God for pardon. In order to get a clean heart a man must know and feel his depravity, acknowledge and deplore it before God, in order to be fully sanctified."

VIII.—"HOW MAY I BE SANCTIFIED?"

1. *Be sure you are in a justified state.* Sanctification is not for sinners nor backsliders. It's "the *very God of peace* that sanctifies wholly" (1 Thess. 5:23), and it's only those "that are *at peace* with God through our Lord Jesus Christ *who have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand and rejoice in hope of the glory of God*" (Rom. 5:1, 2). It is only the *branch bearing fruit that is purged* by the Father (Jno. 15:2).

2. *Abandon your all to God.*

"I beseech you, therefore, brethren, by the mercy of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice holy acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service, and be not conformed to this world, but ye transformed by the renewing of your mind that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

3. *Seek with all your heart.*

"Ask and it shall be given you, *seek and ye shall find*, KNOCK AND IT SHALL BE OPENED UNTO YOU."

Again: "Sanctify yourselves, therefore, (i. e., consecrate), and be ye holy (i. e., conformed to the will and nature of God), for I am the Lord your God (therefore have a right to demand this of you). And ye shall keep my statutes and do them. I am the Lord which

sanctify you." Lev. 20:7, 8. "Meeting these conditions, God sanctified me in Jackson, Tenn., April 28, 1889—T. L. A. Hallelujah to God forever and ever! As Abraham brought his sacrifice and offered it according to God's revealed plan, tarrying till the smoking furnace passed between the parts and the burning lamp witnessed God's acceptance (Gen. 15:9-19), and as the disciples tarried in the upper room waiting for the outpouring of the Holy Ghost in His sanctifying (Jno. 17:17, Rom. 15:16) pentecostal power (Acts 1 and 2), so may we, yea, so *should we tarry in prayer till we receive* the "baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire" (Matt. 3:11), "purifying our hearts by faith (Acts 15:8), "sanctifying and preparing us unto every good work" (2 Tim. 2:21). "Follow peace with all," said the apostle, "and the sanctification without which no man shall see the Lord." (Heb. 12:14, R. V.)

"But may I not grow into this experience?" No.

IX.—IT IS GOD THAT SANCTIFIES.

"I the Lord do sanctify them." (Lev. 22:16.)

Again: "I am the Lord which sanctify you." (Lev. 20:8.) "For I the Lord which sanctify you am holy." (Exod. 2:18.) "And the heathen shall know that I the Lord do sanctify Israel." (Ezek. 37:28.) Peter wrote: "But the God of all grace who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered awhile, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen and settle you." (1 Pet. 5:10.) Jesus prayed the Father "to sanc-

tify" His disciples (Jno. 17:17-20). Paul prayed, "The very God of peace sanctify you wholly," and assured them, "who also will do it." (1 Thess. 5:23, 24.)

No witnesses can be found who have grown into sanctification, but a cloud of witnesses can be produced who by faith have received the cleansing, anointing, sanctifying baptism of the Holy Ghost. Hallelujah to God for ever!

X.—GOD PREACHES A WEEKLY UNIVERSAL SERMON ON SANCTIFICATION.

"Moreover I gave them my sabbaths to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that sanctify them." (Ezek. 20:12.) "And the Lord spake * * * saying * * * Verily, my sabbath ye shall keep for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, that ye may know that I am the Lord that doth sanctify you. Ye shall keep the sabbath, therefore, for it is holy unto you." (Ex. 31:12-14.) Why is it holy? Let the Bible answer: "God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it" (Gen. 2:3). Again: "In them (the heavens) hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber. * * * His going forth is from the ends of the heavens, and his circuit unto the ends of it." (Ps. 19:4-6.) So we see one day in seven, the sun, God's universal circuit rider, as a bridegroom, comes forth from his chamber, sweeps around the globe, silently but surely proclaiming to all earth's inhabitants a holy day—a day

for cessation from all secular pursuits—save only works of mercy or necessity—and a day only for holy service of a holy God. Do they ask why it is a holy day? The answer is, “Because sanctified of God.” Lord, what practical lesson would you thereby teach us? “Verily, my sabbath ye shall keep, for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, that ye may know that I am the Lord that doth sanctify you.” (Ex. 31:13.) This day is the holy day, because sanctified of God, and if we would “be holy” (I. Peter 1:15, 16), “the very God of peace must sanctify us wholly. * * * Faithful is he that calleth us, who also will do it. (I. Thess. 5:23, 24.) Hallelujah to God forever!

But may I know I am sanctified? Yes.

XI.—THE HOLY GHOST WITNESSES TO SANCTIFICATION.

“For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified, whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us.” (Heb. 10:14, 15.) “For the Spirit himself beareth witness with our spirits.” Rom. 8:16. “As it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. BUT GOD HATH REVEALED THEM UNTO US BY HIS SPIRIT. * * * Now we have received * * * the Spirit which is of God that we might know the things that are freely given us of God.” (1 Cor. 2:9, 10, 12.)

Under the faithful preaching of the gospel with the

Holy Ghost sent down from heaven (I. Pet. 1:12), the Spirit reveals to, and convinces sinners of their lost condition (Acts 2:37). On repentance He converts (Acts 3:19), or regenerates them (Titus 3:5). And the Spirit witnesses to "sonship" (Gal. 4:5, 6). Then the Spirit searches us (I. Cor. 2:10), and reveals our carnality (I. Cor. 3:1-3), and if we seek deliverance (Rom. 7:24) with all the heart and all the soul (Deut. 4:29), Jesus will baptize with the Holy Ghost and fire (Luke 3:16), purifying our hearts (Acts 15:8, 9) and sanctifying our souls (Rom. 15:16). Is it anything to be wondered at that the Holy Ghost would bear witness to that holiness (Eph. 5:26, 27), perfect love (I. John 4:17), or sanctification thus imparted to us?

XII.—DOES THE BIBLE MENTION ANY WHO WERE SANCTIFIED OR PERFECT? YES.

Jude addressed his epistle "to them that are sanctified by God the Father and preserved in Jesus Christ." (Jude 1.) "Noah was a just man and perfect in his generation" (Gen. 6:9). "There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job, and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God and eschewed evil" (Job. 1:1). Paul said, "Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded" (Phil. 3:15). Said the Psalmist, "Mark the perfect man and behold the upright, for the end of that man is peace" (Psa. 37:37). Peter wrote to the "elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father through sanctification of the Spirit

unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ" (I. Peter 1:2). Paul addressed "the Church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ, called to be saints" (I. Cor. 1:2). The Psalmist said: "I am holy" (Psa. 76:2). Peter said: "Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (II. Pet. 1:21). God said (in Isaiah 13:3), "I have commanded my sanctified ones." Paul testifies, "Ye are witnesses and God also, how holily and justly and unblamably we behaved ourselves among them that believe" (I. Thess. 2:10). So, bless God, we have a cloud of witnesses mentioned in the Holy Scriptures.

XIII.—BIBLE ADMONITION TO THE SANCTIFIED.

Jesus says, "Behold, I come as a thief: blessed is he that watcheth and keepeth his garment (see Isa. 61:10), lest he walk naked and they see his shame" (Rev. 16:15). "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father * * * is to keep himself unspotted from the world" (Jas. 1:27). How may we? "If we walk in the light as he is in the light we have fellowship one with another and the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanseth us from all sin" (I. Jno. 1:7). If we walk in the light of God's word and spirit, we need never sin again. For "Enoch walked with God three hundred years" (Gen. 5:22). Therefore, let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering, for He is faithful that promised (see I. Cor. 10:13), and let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good

works; not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as ye see the day approaching" (Heb. 10:23-25). "He that despised Moses' law died without mercy * * * of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye shall he be thought worthy who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant wherewith he was sanctified an unholy thing, and hath done despite to the Spirit of grace. * * * It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Heb. 10:28-31).

"Remember, holy Adam and Eve by transgression fell and lost their purity, and "David, a man after God's own heart" (Acts 13:22), yielded to the flesh and fell into grievous sins; and Judas, one of our Lord's apostles, chosen after all night of prayer to God, "by transgression fell" (Acts 1), and doubtless lost his soul. Hence Jesus admonishes us: "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation" (Matt. 26:41). Again: "Behold, I come quickly; hold that fast which thou hast that no man take thy crown" (Rev. 3:11). "Continue in the faith, for we must, through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22). "Fear none of these things which thou shalt suffer. * * * Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life" (Rev. 2:10). "He that overcometh shall inherit all things, and I will be his God, and he shall be my son" (Rev. 21:7). "To him that overcom-

eth," said Jesus, "will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame and am set down with my Father in his throne" (Rev. 13:21).

Hallelujah to God for such a promise!

"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God, our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power both now and ever. Amen" (Jude 24:25).

MY EXPERIENCE.

In answer to the prayers of a godly mother, (I was at a very early age) convicted of sin, and felt that I should yield all to seek a right relation to God. I was haunted in my visions by day, and in my dreams by night with the fact that a great judgment was approaching, and I was not prepared for it. Once I dreamed the judgment day had come and I was not ready. I thought I slipped into heaven, but when the Lord came in and looked over the multitude, conscious of unfitness, I began to tremble. He came, picked me out, and carried me to a hell of fire. I awoke, rejoicing I was in bed and not in hell. Having but few religious advantages, and some real discouragements from those who ought to have encouraged me, I continued in sin till I was seventeen and a half years of age. I am thankful I first heard preaching presenting an awful hell for those who would not repent of sin and seek salvation through Christ. I was willing to give up heaven rather than abandon my sins, but I was not willing to go to hell. So I began in earnest to seek the Lord. August 1, 1875, after earnestly seeking (as Jer. 29:13), the Lord showed me the awfulness of sin. I felt I

ought to be sent to hell, and that God would soon put me there. Resigned to justice, I looked up and thanked God for keeping me out of hell so long. In that moment of *awful desperation*, lifting my heart to God, I felt, "Lord, if you can have mercy on such a sinner as I am, *for Jesus' sake, help me now.*" And, bless God, to my joy and *utter astonishment*, instead of hurrying me, as I deserved, off to hell, "The burden of my heart rolled away," my sins were all pardoned (Isa. 55:7), my name written in heaven (Luke 10:20), the Spirit bore witness with my spirit that I was a child of God (Rom. 8:16). Yes, I was "born of God" (Jno. 1:13); I actually wondered if I were the same boy, the change wrought in my heart was so radical.

Some time after, hearing a preacher say God had a work for everyone of His children, and recommending Saul's prayer, I began praying, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" (Acts 9:6). I had not prayed this prayer long, when I was unmistakably impressed to preach the gospel. Apprehending the magnitude of the calling, and conscious of my utter unfitness for the work, with all the difficulties and obstacles in the way, I promptly refused, and continued to pray this same prayer; but God refused to show me *anything else* to do, and after wrestling with this problem for weeks, feeling I would never have any more peace, refusing to obey God, I said:

“I’ll take the gospel trumpet,
And I’ll begin to blow,
And if my Lord will help me,
I’ll *blow wherever I go.*”

My heart was instantly flooded with “joy unspeakable and full of glory.” If the Holy Ghost keeps any diary, you will have to wait till the judgment to hear all He has had to bear with that ignorant, timid, bashful, self-willed boy, who yielded himself to God that spring day in 1875, to be His herald of the gospel.

I finished my school life in Vanderbilt University, and entered the itinerate pastorate, thinking I was equipped for soul saving. But alas! I found that mental and spiritual preparation are not synonymous terms. Discouraged, I asked to be released from the charge, but my P. E. would not consent, so I took to prayer. Spending a large part of two or three weeks in the woods crying to God. Going out about sunset one evening, I continued in earnest, wrestling prayer till about nine o’clock at night, when I *prevailed*. Hallelujah to God forever! I preached the next day; the Holy Ghost fell, the altar was filled, and fourteen professed religion. The revival swept on, till within two and a half years we had on that charge five hundred conversions, and near four hundred accessions to the church.

Up to this time I had heard but little of sanctification; had never heard any one profess to have the experience. Reading the course of study prescribed by the

bishops, I soon saw sanctification as a work of the Spirit, received by believers, subsequent to regeneration, was plainly and constantly set forth. And when I stood before the Conference for admission—"after solemn fasting and prayer," the bishop demanded of me, "Are you going on to perfection? *Do you expect to be made perfect in love in this life?* Are you GROANING AFTER it?" I, as pastor, was required to exhort the church to "do all in their power to perfect those in love who were received into its membership." I saw, to be a genuine Methodist pastor, I must *seek, obtain, and URGE* on my people the experience of entire sanctification. I also read it in the Bible (I. Thess. 4:3; Heb. 13:12; Eph. 5:25-27; Heb. 12:14, and I. Thess. 5:23).

About this time "The Way of Life" and "Divine Life" fell into my hands, which I eagerly read. Getting off my horse while riding my circuit many a time, under deep conviction, I have fallen down in the woods by a log and cried to God for deliverance from the carnal mind (Rom. 8:7). About this time, "The West Tennessee and West Kentucky Holiness Association" was organized, and I attended some of the meetings; but it seemed when the old nature would get stirred, instead of having it destroyed (Rom. 6:6), I would yield and leave the meeting. But finally seeing the "Holiness Association" was open to calls for the spring meeting in April, 1889, I invited them to meet in my church in West Jackson, Tenn.

The first invitation found me at the altar, where I had invited penitents for a year and a half. Oh, the mortification of my preacher pride I experienced! After several services at the altar, being frequently urged by mistaken altar workers to claim "I was sanctified by faith," to get up and "profess to have the experience," "that I had to claim it by faith to get it," etc. (But I *knew I didn't have it*. And I didn't believe it possible for God to baptize me with the Holy Ghost and fire without me knowing it), finally, after deep heart-searching and as Jacob (Hosea 12:4), with "strong cries and tears," the Holy Ghost was pleased to come and undertake for me as promised. "Howbeit, when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth" (John 16:13). He began thus: "Suppose your presiding elder objected to your sanctification, would you hold on to me or him?" This touched me in a tender place, as I feared to offend him; but I said, "Lord, I hate to displease him, but I *will please you at any cost*." A number of other tests were proposed—the Spirit communicating with me as distinctly and unmistakably as if with an audible voice. The final issue came: "*Will you tell it?*" I replied, "O, Lord, it's not popular to say you are sanctified—just give it to me and let me live it and say nothing about it." No; not on those terms. "Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord" (Isa. 43:12). And as the Holy Ghost seemed to say, as He did to Jacob when he would not submit to Him,

“Let me go” (Gen. 32:26), when I thought of His leaving me, without sanctifying my soul, satisfying that deep hunger and thirst (Matt. 5:6) which I felt in my soul, I said: “Lord, if you will sanctify my soul (Heb. 2:11), and you want me to, I’ll join the salvation army, go bareheaded through the streets of the cities of the United States, and tell the people I’m sanctified.” Well, God saw I was fully *abandoned to His will*, and this was the last test given. The Holy Ghost now ceased to question me further, and a deep consciousness settled in my heart that I was fully consecrated to the will of my God. This was at the altar about 9 p. m., April 28, 1889. Service closed. I left the altar, listening every moment to the Spirit’s direction (Lev. 20:7, 8). Going home, we sat talking before retiring. About 11 o’clock, the Spirit suggested that we have family prayer. I said, “Let’s pray.” Falling on our knees, I opened my heart to talk to God, and God opened the windows of heaven and poured me out a blessing I was not able to contain (Mal. 3:10). It seemed God dropped the very bottom of heaven out into my soul. *Praise His precious name for ever and ever!* I blessed and praised Him aloud. Hallelujah! I began repeating, “Bless the Lord, O, my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name” (Psa. 103:1). I felt there was nothing in my soul that did not delight in praising His holy name. I continued: “Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: who forgiveth all thine ini-

quities"—conscience testified guilt was all gone. "Who healeth all thy diseases."

I felt conscious *every disease* of my soul was gone, and I was MADE WHOLE. Hallelujah!

Now the Bible says "the Holy Ghost also witnesses to sanctification" (Heb. 10:14, 15), so the next day, as I opened my Bible at I. Thess. 4:3, 4—"For this is the will of God, even your sanctification * * * that every-one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honor," conscious of perfect victory over the body the Spirit witnessed, "You are sanctified." I immediately began declaring, "*I am sanctified*," and for these fifteen years and more, God has granted me the exquisite pleasure of preaching this glorious doctrine and testifying to the experience that "the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire purifies the heart" (Acts 15: 8, 19), and sanctifies the nature" (Rom. 15:16), and "perfects us in love" (I. Jno. 4:17). From the Atlantic to the Pacific, from California to Cuba, God has granted us this great pleasure.

Bishop Key immediately transferred me to Texas, where for five years God had me labor to spread this glorious knowledge of an "uttermost salvation" (Heb. 7:25). Thence I was transferred to the New Mexico Conference, where for seven years we saw hundreds converted and sanctified to God, during which time God gave me a sanctified wife and two bright children.

Ever since God put the fire in my soul, I longed for



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the evangelistic field, where I could constantly labor for the salvation of souls. Accordingly, after much prayer with fasting, at the 1891 session of the New Mexico Conference, I felt clearly led to leave the pastorate to "do the work of an evangelist."

Starting out like Abraham, not knowing whither we went, God plainly and clearly led us to, and in answer to prayer, gave us a home in Tuscumbia, Ala., where we had a great revival, and scores of souls were converted and sanctified to God.

Eight years ago, while banished to a region in Texas, where I was utterly cut off from fellowship with the sanctified, God came to my assistance by sanctifying Rev. L. L. Gladney, a neighboring pastor. Like David and Jonatnan, *God joined us together on first sight*, and hundreds, possibly thousands of souls have since been blessed in meetings in which we have labored together in the pastorate. And in the evangelistic field, have together held blessed, God-honored revivals at McGregor, Tex.; Milan, Tenn.; Florence, Tuscumbia and Decatur, Ala., in which many precious souls were convicted, converted and sanctified to God. All glory to His name.

For the past year I have been doubly blessed in having my wife as traveling companion and associate evangelist; together we have held many meetings in Alabama, Tennessee, and Mississippi, and seven months ago we went to Southern Florida, had a blessed winter's

campaign, with a precious harvest of souls. While there I broke down from over-work and malaria, God opening up the way we went on to Cuba, where my wife pressed the battle in Spanish for three months, while I rested and recuperated for the summer work in the States, in which we are now engaged. All glory to God.

Oh, the joy that has come into my life through sanctification. Hallelujah! "Oh, that the world might taste and see the riches of his grace!"

